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8 **ROCKEFELLER PHOTOS, LLC**

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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

ROCKEFELLER PHOTOS, LLC,

Plaintiff,

V.

SAK FOODS CORPORATION,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 8:25-cv-01486

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Rockefeller Photos, LLC (“Plaintiff”) sues defendant SAK Foods Corporation (“Defendant”), and alleges as follows:

THE PARTIES

1. Plaintiff is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business located in

1 Miami-Dade County, Florida.

2 2. Defendant is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of
3 the State of California with its principal place of business located at 2431 N. Tustin
4 Ave. R2, Santa Ana, CA 92705. Defendant's agent for service of process is Salem
5 Kabbani, 405 Rockefeller, #407, Irvine, CA 92612.

7 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

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9 3. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to
10 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

11 4. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because it has
12 maintained sufficient minimum contacts with this State such that the exercise of
13 personal jurisdiction over it would not offend traditional notions of fair play and
14 substantial justice.

15
16 5. Venue properly lies in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1400(a)
17 because Defendant or its agents reside or may be found in this district. "The Ninth
18 Circuit has interpreted Section 1400(a) to mean that venue is proper in any judicial
19 district in which the defendant would be amenable to personal
20 jurisdiction." Righthaven LLC v. Inform Techs., Inc., No. 2:11-CV-00053-KJD-
21 LRL, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 119379, at *8 (D. Nev. Oct. 14, 2011) (citing Brayton
22 Purcell LLP v. Recordon & Recordon, 606 F.3d 1124, 1128 (9th Cir. 2010)).
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25 **FACTS**

I. Plaintiff's Business and History

6. Plaintiff is a premier provider of photography and videography in the highly-competitive food and beverage industry. By offering its customers access to tens of thousands of photographs/videos, Plaintiff provides businesses with the opportunity to build brand association/recognition through the use of media tailored to their needs.

7. Prepared Food Photos, Inc. f/k/a Adlife Marketing & Communications Co., Inc. ("Prepared Food Photos") is one of the customers photography agencies represented by Plaintiff. Through its staff of professional photographers, Prepared Food Photos created and owns approximately 18,000 food-related photographs for use by supermarkets, ad agencies, and other professionals needing access to an extensive library of quality photographs.

II. The Works at Issue in this Lawsuit

8. A professional photographer employed by Plaintiff's above-named customer created a photograph titled "HotDog036_ADL, 04-26-1998" (the "Work"). A copy of the Work is displayed below:



1 9. The Work was registered by the above-named customer with the
2 Register of Copyrights on January 30, 2017 and was assigned Registration No. VA
3 2-046-799. A true and correct copy of the Certificate of Registration pertaining to
4 the Work is attached hereto as **Exhibit “A.”**

6 10. Plaintiff’s above-named customer is the owner of the Work and has
7 remained the owner at all times material hereto.

8
9 11. For all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff and its above-named
10 customer were parties to one or more written agreements whereby such above-
11 named customer conveyed to Plaintiff certain exclusive rights in the Work,
12 including but not limited to the exclusive right to reproduce the Work in copies
13 and the exclusive right to distribute copies of the Work to the public by sale and/or
14 licensing. Such written agreement(s) likewise convey the exclusive right to pursue
15 any infringements of the Work, whether such infringements arose prior to
16 execution of the written agreement(s) or thereafter. As such, Plaintiff is entitled to
17 institute and maintain this action for copyright infringement. See 17 U.S.C. §
18 501(b).
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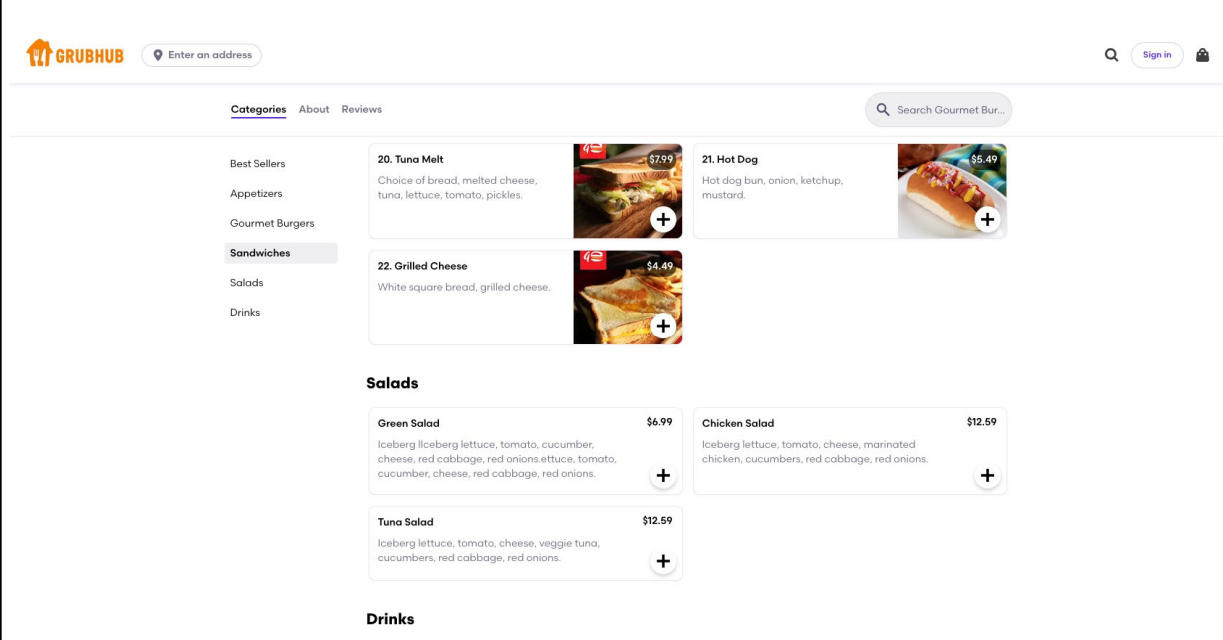
21 **III. Defendant’s Unlawful Activities**

22 12. Defendant operates as a fast-food restaurant specializing in halal
23 options for its customers.
24

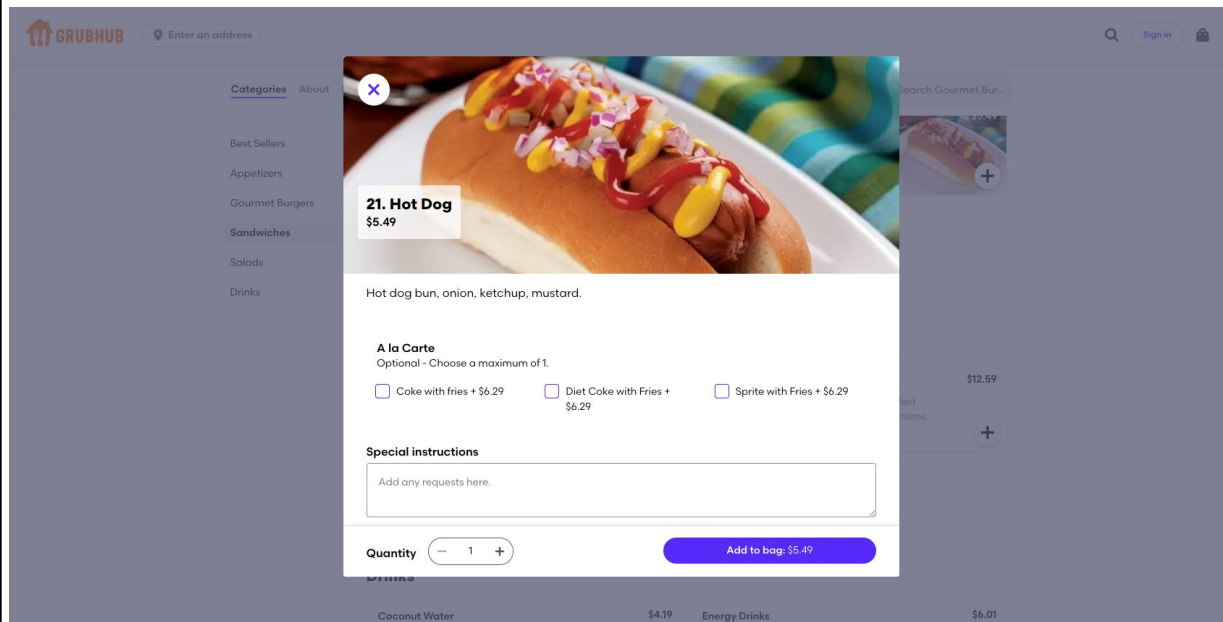
25 13. Defendant advertises/markets its business through its website ([h](#))

1 <https://gourmet-burger-ca.squarespace.com/>), social media (e.g.,
 2 <https://www.facebook.com/gourmetburgerhalal/>,
 3 https://www.instagram.com/gourmet_burgers/, and
 4 https://www.tiktok.com/@gourmet_burger), and other forms of advertising.
 5

6 14. On a date after the above-referenced copyright registration of the
 7 Work, Defendant displayed and/or published the Work on its website, webpage,
 8 and/or social media as a means of advertising, promoting, and/or marketing its
 9 business (at <https://www.grubhub.com/restaurant/gourmet-burger-2431-n-tustin-ave-santa-ana/2016640>):
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 11



12 (at <https://www.grubhub.com/restaurant/gourmet-burger-2431-n-tustin-ave-santa-ana/2016640/menu-item/1293295786>):
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15. A true and correct copy of the screenshot of Defendant's website, webpage, and/or social media, displaying the copyrighted Work, is attached hereto as **Exhibit "B."**

16. Defendant is not and has never been licensed to use or display the Work. Defendant never contacted Plaintiff to seek permission to use the Work in connection with Defendant's website, webpage, and/or social media – even though the Work that was copied is clearly professional photography that would put Defendant on notice that the Work was not intended for public use.

17. Defendant utilized the Work for commercial use.

18. Upon information and belief, Defendant located a copy of the Work on the internet and, rather than contact Plaintiff to secure a license, simply copied the Work for its own commercial use.

1 19. Through its ongoing diligent efforts to identify unauthorized use of its
2 photographs, Plaintiff and/or its above-named customer discovered Defendant's
3 unauthorized use/display of the Work on May 29, 2024. Following such discovery,
4 Plaintiff and/or its above-named customer notified Defendant in writing of such
5 unauthorized use.
6

7 20. All conditions precedent to this action have been performed or have
8 been waived.
9

10 **COUNT I – COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT**

11 21. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates paragraphs 1 through 20 as set
12 forth above.
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14 22. Each photograph comprising the Work is an original work of
15 authorship, embodying copyrightable subject matter, that is subject to the full
16 protection of the United States copyright laws (17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*).
17

18 23. Plaintiff's above-named customer owns a valid copyright in each
19 photograph comprising the Work, having registered the Work with the Register of
20 Copyrights.
21

22 24. Plaintiff has standing to bring this lawsuit and assert the claim(s)
23 herein as it has sufficient rights, title, and interest to such copyrights (as Plaintiff
24 was conveyed certain exclusive rights to reproduce and distribute the Work by the
25 above-named customer).

1 25. As a result of Plaintiff and/or its above-named customer's
2 reproduction, distribution, and public display of the Work, Defendant had access
3 to the Work prior to its own reproduction, distribution, and public display of the
4 Work on Defendant's website, webpage, and/or social media.

6 26. Defendant reproduced, distributed, displayed, and/or publicly
7 displayed the Work without authorization from Plaintiff or its above-named
8 customer.

10 27. By its actions, Defendant infringed and violated Plaintiff's exclusive
11 rights in violation of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 501. Defendant's
12 infringement was either direct, vicarious, and/or contributory.

14 28. Defendant's infringement was willful as it acted with actual
15 knowledge or reckless disregard for whether its conduct infringed upon copyright.
16 Defendant clearly understands that professional photography such as the Work is
17 generally paid for and cannot simply be copied from the internet.

19 29. Plaintiff has been damaged as a direct and proximate result of
20 Defendant's infringement.

21 30. Plaintiff is entitled to recover its actual damages resulting from
22 Defendant's unauthorized use of the Work and, at Plaintiff's election (pursuant to
23 17 U.S.C. § 504(b)), Plaintiff is entitled to recover damages based on a
24 disgorgement of Defendant's profits from infringement of the Work, which
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1 amounts shall be proven at trial.

2 31. Alternatively, and at Plaintiff's election, Plaintiff is entitled to
3 statutory damages pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(c), in such amount as deemed
4 proper by the Court.
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6 32. Pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505, Plaintiff is further entitled to recover its
7 costs and attorneys' fees as a result of Defendant's conduct.
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9 33. Defendant's conduct has caused, and any continued infringing
10 conduct will continue to cause, irreparable injury to Plaintiff unless enjoined by
11 the Court. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law. Pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 502,
12 Plaintiff is entitled to a permanent injunction prohibiting infringement of Plaintiff's
13 exclusive rights under copyright law.
14

15 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendant as follows:

- 16 a. A declaration that Defendant has infringed the copyrights in the Work;
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18 b. A declaration that such infringement is willful;
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20 c. An award of actual damages and disgorgement of profits as the Court deems
21 proper or, at Plaintiff's election, an award of statutory damages for each
22 photograph comprising the Work;
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24 d. Awarding Plaintiff its costs and reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to 17
25 U.S.C. § 505;
e. Awarding Plaintiff interest, including prejudgment interest, on the foregoing

1 amounts;

- 2 f. Permanently enjoining Defendant, its employees, agents, officers, directors,
3 attorneys, successors, affiliates, subsidiaries and assigns, and all those in
4 active concert and participation with Defendant, from directly or indirectly
5 infringing Plaintiff's copyrights or continuing to display, transfer, advertise,
6 reproduce, or otherwise market any works derived or copied from the Work
7 or to participate or assist in any such activity; and
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9 g. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.
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14 Dated: July 9, 2025.

COPYCAT LEGAL PLLC

15 By: /s/ Lauren M. Hausman
16 Lauren M. Hausman, Esq.
17 Attorney for Plaintiff
18 Rockefeller Photos, LLC
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